

We had been housekeeping but ten days when our humble dwelling was filled almost to overflowing with a number of the Mt. Pleasant good brethren and sisters who came not empty handed, but with supplies for physical wants too numerous to mention. It was a complete surprise, and caused us to feel that our work this first year in our first charge is not entirely without appreciation.

We will begin our protracted effort here on the 20th, inst. May God's richest blessings rest upon the Mt. Pleasant brethren and sisters.

R. R. TEEFER.

Rossville, Ind.

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT.

Read at Ashland Brethren S. S. Nov. 18.

What more sublime passages can be brought forth from God's Word than these beatitudes given through Christ's apostles to all generations of men.

The notable character, Jesus Christ, when sojourning for a little season in this sinful world, graciously blessed His children, and He not only desired healing their bodies but their souls also.

And as we may as it were, behold Him on this mountain, surrounded by the chosen Apostles, we may imagine some-what of His love for mankind.

The sermon was directed to the "Few" yet we are told, "the people hearing were astonished."

"He opened His mouth and taught them"—every word pronounced by this Son of man gave wonderful instruction to all, and though these utterances were given centuries ago, yet were they not written for all?

The first of these beautiful promises, according to St. Matthew is directed to God's humble creatures for which He has a blessing when He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

This poverty of spirit certainly frees us from self and allows Christ to dwell in the inmost recesses of the heart, and He is willing to bless these first who by choice humble themselves and by so doing have laid the foundation to other graces following, for "to build high, we must begin low." The reward promised is an inheritance to the kingdom of Heaven.

God's sorrowing ones have a comfort in the promise, "blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted."

We not only grieve over departed friends but our sins also. Self control then is here taught, for was not Christ "man of sorrows and acquainted with grief?" And did He not withstand all? What can Heaven be but the blessed home of the saints to those who go mourning there, not only for their own deeds, but with a heart full of sympathy for others.

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." The child of a quiet, submissive spirit again receives encouragement from God, or rather Christ. These are willing to follow Him where He leadeth and desirous of learning more of His precious love, and their inheritance the land—possibly of Canaan, which at that time signified heaven.

"Blessed are they which do thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

The soul here hungering and thirsting after spiritual food is likened to the body craving substance. These desires are God given and we know He never forsakes His own works. The body can easily be satisfied, but the soul never fully until it sees God. A blessing then awaits us.

"Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy." Christ not only here speaks to those who show mercy by giving money, but those who are merciful in their actions by bestowing pity to the miserable and comforting all.

We need not expend wealth to receive mercy in return for our deeds, for God has promised to extend the same to us.

What more noble portrait can be portrayed than a Christian walking upright in the midst of sin, fearing nothing; but lifting his eyes heavenward to the Great Power beyond who ever guides His children if they only trust Him,—for these God cares for when He says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." A heart cleansed from all sin, spotless, which must remain so until it is ours to enter God's sanctuary.

Our faith then in His promises will sometimes bring us face to face with the Redeemer of the world.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Love for our fellow-men must be shown in every action if we desire making peace with men. Was not this Christ's blessed work—to unite the divided and reconcile all? The task seemingly difficult to perform, is not so when the reward is considered—we shall be children of God, and it will then sometime be our blessed privilege to dwell with the Prince of Peace. Men in all ages have deformed Christ and his teachings, but there have always been some worthy of mention who have proclaimed His Word fearlessly if death did end existence for a time, for they trusted Christ when He said, "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

God knew that for virtue's sake and godliness men would receive persecutions from the ungodly, but a happy realization awaits all. Christ bore it all for us, and is now willing to help us our burdens bear.

"Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake." The tongue of an evil one can effect much slander, and words have been known to sink deeper than swords; but does not Christ call these blessed who endure? He also tells them to "rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is their reward in heaven, for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Such persecutions are then of no avail to the children of God for this is no abiding city.

Of the different names given for the rewards offered, the kingdom of heaven is the sum of all—for which we are all striving.

The beatitudes then are as a golden chain woven by our Master to bring humanity nearer. We have only a life time to live and that for moulding this clay fit for a heavenly reproduction.

Toil on then, Christian workers, discharging every duty that may come up and we may then sometime rejoice to be in the presence of the most high God in the *Kingdom of Heaven*.

BERTHA MYERS.